IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device ~~adapted~~ configured to ~~start~~ start-up by reading out a boot program from a data-rewritable nonvolatile memory, ~~the~~ boot program instructions being stored in parallel in a plurality of blocks ~~in~~ of the nonvolatile memory ~~in parallel~~, the semiconductor device comprising:

a CPU ~~adapted~~ configured, in part, to specify a read position for reading out the boot program instructions stored in the nonvolatile memory at the starting time, and execute a ~~starting~~ start-up process according to the thus read-out boot program instructions; and

a read control circuit ~~adapted~~ configured to (a) determine ~~that~~ whether a block corresponding to the read position is faulty or not according to data read out from the block, (b) output the data to the CPU if the block is determined as not faulty, and (c) read the data from another block storing ~~the~~ boot program instructions and determine ~~again~~ whether the another block is faulty or not if the block is determined as faulty.

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the read control circuit is ~~adapted~~ configured to determine ~~that~~ whether the block is faulty or not faulty at least according to an error correction code contained in the data read out from the nonvolatile memory.

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein the read control circuit corrects the data and supplies it to the CPU when it determines that the data is correctable ~~data~~ according to the error correction code ~~and~~ but otherwise determines that the block is faulty when it determines that the data is uncorrectable data.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the read control circuit is ~~adapted~~ configured to determine that the block is faulty or not faulty at least according to a block state information contained in the data read out from the nonvolatile memory.

5. (Original) The device according to claim 4, wherein the read control circuit determines that the block is faulty when the block state information does not show a predetermined value.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein the block state information is stored in a leading page of each of the blocks storing ~~the~~ boot program instructions.

7. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the nonvolatile memory is a NAND type flash memory.

8. (Currently Amended) A processing method for starting up a semiconductor device comprising a CPU ~~adapted~~ configured, in part, to start by reading out ~~a~~ boot program instructions from a data-rewritable nonvolatile memory, ~~the~~ boot program instructions being stored in parallel in a plurality of blocks in the nonvolatile memory ~~in parallel~~, the processing method comprising the steps of:

reading out data from a block in the nonvolatile memory corresponding to a read position specified by the CPU at the starting time by means of the read control circuit of the nonvolatile memory; ~~and~~

determining ~~that~~ whether the block is faulty or not according to the data read out from the block[[,]]; and

outputting the data to the CPU if the block is determined as not faulty, ~~and~~ or reading data from another block storing ~~the~~ boot program instructions and determining ~~again~~ whether the another block is faulty or not if the block is determined as faulty.